

Latin American Studies Association
Education and Educational Policy Section

Report of the Section's General Meeting
San Francisco, USA – May 23, 2025

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The business meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Education and Educational Policy Section was held on Friday, May 23, 2025, in San Francisco, USA, in a hybrid format that allowed for in-person and virtual participation. The session was attended by 16 members.

During the opening, participants were welcomed, followed by a general presentation outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various positions within the Section, including co-director, secretary/treasurer, and counselor. It was also announced that an additional meeting to formalize the transition between the outgoing and incoming boards was pending.

Regarding the financial situation, an updated balance sheet of \$4,634.99 USD was reported as of May 12, 2025. This figure reflects the resources available at the close of the 2025 fiscal year and will serve as the basis for budget projections for the next period. Regarding membership, as of the cutoff date, the Section had 44 members. This represents a decrease of 13 members compared to the same period in 2024. Having fewer than 50 members prevents the Section from having an invited panel in 2026. However, the Executive Committee has granted us a session for LASA 2026, while the number of members is increased. Additionally, no travel grant applications were issued this year.

Regarding communication strategies, the Section continues to use the institutional email provided by LASA to connect with active members, as well as Gmail. Additionally, a distribution list is maintained via MailChimp for active and inactive members. The Section also strives to update its website and channel information through official social media channels, which are managed by the LASA core team.

As part of the proposals to strengthen the Section's identity and presence, the creation of an institutional podcast was proposed, with the aim of diversifying the communication and academic outreach channels for Section members and prominent researchers on Latin American education. Additionally, it was proposed to continue working to increase the number of active members to over 50, a measure that seeks to ensure the sustainability and growth of the group and guarantees the Section will have at least one guest panel at the next conference.

Regarding the LASA 2025 Conference, it was highlighted that the organization allowed sections to have a guest panel, with the purpose of encouraging participation and strengthening membership. The Education Section, as has been the practice for the last seven or eight years, issued a call to organize a thematic symposium related to the conference's central theme. The proposals were received by the co-directors and secretary for the 2024-2025 term, Guzmán Hernández Estrada, Rosita Angelo, and Jorge Enrique Delgado, who served as symposium coordinators. These proposals were grouped into a total of five panels (four open and one invited), which were evaluated according to the procedures established by the conference organizers. The invited panel was dedicated to the launch of the book

"The Kaleidoscope of Aspirations. University Students in Unequal Conditions," coordinated by Lorenza Villa of UNAM.

The collective effort of the symposia has proven effective in increasing the acceptance rate of proposed papers. A highlight was the participation of members Consuelo Sánchez Bautista and Fabiola Cabra as Education track chairs for the 2025 LASA Congress, which has been a significant achievement for the Section, as these positions used to be assigned to individuals outside the Section. In recent years, LASA has adopted the practice of consulting with the Sections to appoint coordinators for specific topics, thus strengthening the institutional ties. (Note: Unfortunately, LASA did not consult with the Education Section, nor did it invite any of its members to serve as education track chairs for the 2026 Congress.)

As a result of the election of the new Board of Directors of the Education Section for the 2025-2026 term, the following results were obtained: Co-chairs—Ilse Argüelles (Mexico) and Guzmán Hernández (Mexico); Secretary/Treasurer—Jorge Delgado (Colombia/USA); Communications Coordinator—Ianca Almeida (Brazil); Board Members—Lourdes Ziberberg (Brazil), Betina dos Santos (Brazil), Chizuru Ushida (Japan), Nancy Palacios (Colombia), Rafael Meza (Nicaragua), Jazdil Poupart-Feliciano (Puerto Rico), Victoria Desimoni (Argentina), Salvador Camacho (Mexico), Mark Ginsburg (USA), Liliana Gallego (Colombia), and Bárbara G. Vega (Mexico).

The next LASA Congress will be held in Paris, France, from May 26 to 30, 2026. It will be exclusively in-person. The conference theme will be "Republic and Revolution," for which the new Section Board of Directors will work on the drafting and convening of the symposium. The call for papers and sessions will be open in July and August 2025.

In summary, the work proposals for the 2025-2026 period, in addition to the 2026 Education at LASA Symposium, included: podcasts or webinars (current, former, and invited members); promoting the publication of books, book chapters, and articles; resuming travel grants; evaluating the possible creation of a prize for new and career-level research in educational innovation and public policy; creating content for the LASA YouTube channel; collecting and publishing information on members' recent publications on the Section's website; continue with the proposal to create an essential directory or library of Latin American education on public policy and educational innovation.